

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 9, 2002

Signature:


Robert B. Cohen

Docket No.: SCEIWI 3.0-090
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ebihara et al.

Application No.: 09/974,608

Filed: October 10, 2001



Group Art Unit: 2152

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM AND
METHOD, COMPUTER PROGRAM, AND
RECORDING MEDIUM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

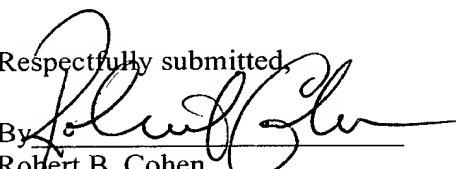
Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the references listed on the enclosed PTO-form be made of record and considered with respect to the above-referenced U.S. patent application. A copy of each reference is enclosed. These references were cited in a corresponding International Search Report, a copy of which is enclosed. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: January 9, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768
LERNER, DAVID, LITTBENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorneys for Applicant



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/974,608
				Filing Date	October 10, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Hitoshi Ebihara
				Art Unit	2152
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SCEI 3.0-090

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A		5,237,686	08-17-1993	Asano et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
B		JP 8-138060 A	05-31-1996	HITACHI LTD	**
C		JP 7-248750 A	09-26-1995	HITACHI LTD	**
D		JP 62-118479 A	05-29-1987	SONY CORPORATION	**
E		JP 4-131960 A	05-06-1992	HITACHI LTD, HITACHI INF & CONTROL SYST INC	**

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
		T ²			
				Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

^{**} English abstract attached